

University of Tokyo
June 12, 1956

Dear Josh,

What good news that you are coming! I hope Esther can make it also; you would both enjoy the visit on all counts. But please, Josh, don't protest the junket aspect of your NSF grant. You have something to give, and may gain many things in return. Of course it is a luxury, but our nation's economy can support many more frivolous. Furthermore, you would not be consistent if you protested that the sum should be given to some poor Indians, for then you ought not to live as well at home as you do.

O.K. - you're coming, and want some suggestions. I'll do my best but I'm ~~not~~ sure Iino can improve on my remarks.

1. Itinerary - a tourist flight overseas is as comfortable as a first-class one back home. We always fly that way, and sometimes get tourist accommodations on 1st class flights. You won't be tired.

If you arrive a week early you'll have a chance to look around Tokyo and its environs a bit and enjoy Kabuki and Noh drama, etc. Short and fascinating trips can be taken to Nikko, Kamakura, Hakone, Atami Hot Springs, and the Izu peninsula. But you can fit what you wish into your schedule when you arrive, no plans are necessary. You might even be able to take one of these trips with someone you wished to talk with, and the National Institute of Genetics is near Hakone (so is Fuji-san).

If you can make a start at getting a few people to gather in Tokyo a few days before the symposium, I'll follow through and try to add a few others here and make arrangements. Your list of Japanese you want to see is good - Uetake, Iseki, Fukimi and Kikkawa. I'd add Tsujita, Watanabe Itaru, Watanabe Tsutomu, Ashida, a couple of Kikkawa's students, and a few more. (You should and will also meet some outstanding chaps outside of our field, such as Tamiya, Sakaguchi, Yanagita, Kihara, Dan, Yamashita, Matsuura, Komai, etc.) I understand that there is a good chance that the following foreign microbial geneticists might attend: Novick, Beadle, Watson, Hollaender, Demerec, Ephrussi, Slonimski, Heslot, Haemmerling, Plough I, Stendt, Winge, Lindegrens, Woodward, S. Emerson, D. Donner(?), and Marshak.

The second part of the Symposium will be held in Kyoto, one of Japan's old, lovely places (Tokyo is roaring modern). Take the organized excursion in Kyoto and, if possible, see nearby Nara and especially Horyuji (ask Iino). The longer planned excursions would be fascinating, but will take time. If you had just a few days over, it might be better to visit Kikkawa at nearby Osaka; I understand he is arranging a small post-Symposium meeting on nucleic acids with Mirsky, Watson, and Marshak. Maybe from there you could take a boat in the evening on the Inland Sea (Setonaikai) to Takamatsu and Yashima on Shikoku, and return the next day.

2. Baggage - the weather will be warm, so bring summer clothes and a raincoat. Travel as lightly as possible, for you may want to take something back with you.

3. Accommodations - the hotel to which you are assigned will write you directly. The Organizing Committee is still working on this. They (here) will all be western style, i.e., with chairs, beds and toilets; nice and comfortable, but not expensive (probably less than \$5 a day, with breakfast). I wish we could put you up, but with one tetamized sleeping

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4. Expenses - hard for me to say. Probably ca. \$10 a day because of the type of life you will have to lead - taxis and so on. One can live very cheaply here, but it involves settling; you won't want to waste your time saving a few \$\$. Settled here, I blow my top when our daily expenses (excluding rent) exceed \$2 a day for the three of us (Takao-san, our maid). Carry your money in Traveller's checks - the 75¢ per \$100 insurance is worth it (I once lost \$450 of them!).

I am sure when you are here you will want to buy some things to take home. Of course you can spend as much here as anywhere, but many things are really inexpensive and of good quality - cameras, microscopes, tape recorders, binoculars, and indigenous items like lacquer ware, pottery, cultured pearls, silk, etc. You can take back \$500 worth of stuff duty free.

You may also want to bring some gifts to Japan with you; you will be embarrassed by the hospitality and the VIP treatment. There are many cheaply made cigarette lighters, fountain pens and so on here, but good Ronson lighters, American fountain pens, or Kodachrome (preferably developing not included) are exorbitantly expensive here and much coveted. Long-playing classical records are also much appreciated. As a basis for comparison, a newly graduated research assistant here will earn about \$30 a month, a first-rate full professor maybe \$150 a month. He can live cheaply at home, but many things, such as imported goods, clothes, hotels, and restaurants are dear. Yet they shower us with expensive gifts. Sometimes, when an assistant can't afford a dollar for train fare to a picnic, he will allow me to pay it. Any extra American presents you don't unload, we'll take off your hands, for we are burdened with girl.

5. Language - we are dolts, pretty less so than I, but even she can't interpret a discussion. But some Japanese easily can. Have Iino teach you a few polite phrases; then when you arrive you won't be mistaken for a Frenchman, for you will have tried.

6. Books - cheap editions, worth buying, are put out by Chas. Tuttle Publishing Co., Rutland, Vermont, and, when available in addition to another edition, are marked with *.

Ruth Benedict The Chrysanthemum and the Sword. *
(An excellent anthropological study)

Donald Keene Anthology of Japanese Literature. *
(Collected with taste.)

J. Osaragi Homecoming. * (A translation of a fine modern novel that is at the same time educational.)

In addition, you may want to browse in the library among:

Lady Murasaki The Tale of Genji (Trans. by Arthur Waley)

E. Reischauer Japan Past and Present.

N.B. James Michener The Floating World.

Susuki Studies in Zen.

Embree A Japanese Village, Suze Mura.

Finally, there are good translations of Akutagawa's works, Kappa, Nashomon*, etc. (See the film, Gate of Hell, if you haven't already); and diverting as well as scholarly works by Lafcadio Hearn*, Ernest Fenollosa and Ezra Pound. In the front of the Tourist's Guide to Japan there are lots of good, brief articles on such things as history, economics, architecture, language, etc.

All best wishes and congratulations to Hans and Jim Crow as well, both of whom are welcome to the information this letter contains.

Sincerely,

Francis

P.S. Someone wrote that the CSH Symposium this June would be very interesting, and was sorry I would not be able to attend. He failed to mention the subject and such news trickles to Japan slowly. What was it on? Not genetics again I hope, but I fear so - 1941, 1946, 1951 ---- ?

P.P.S. We just had a letter from Hans, as you predicted. Therefore, to save me time and money, will you please be sure to show him this? (My apologies, Hans, for not writing a separate letter - perhaps later.) A room at the YMCA costs ca. \$2.30 per day with breakfast. There are probably even cheaper Japanese yadoya, but those Betty and I have stayed at in our travels were more expensive, but every bit worth the cost. I would strongly recommend that at some time during your trip all of you plan to stay at least one night in a yadoya (ca. \$4 without meals). The environment, service, and food can be wonderful - there is nothing like it in the west - but you must wear yukata, sleep on quilts on the floor, usually not with the girl who is assigned as your attendant, and may have to use a communal bath.

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